

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01
OMB-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /060 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 907

UNCLAS BANGKOK 7579

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD

SUBJ: GSP: FIRST YEAR REVIEW

REF: A) STATE 67507; B) BANGKOK 5250

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON RTG OFFICIALS FOR DISCUSSIONS OF FIRST YEAR'S OPERATION OF U.S. GSP. ALTHOUGH THAI GOVERNMENT PLEASSED WITH THE ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE YEAR, THERE WERE SOME PROBLEM AREAS PREVENTING RTG FROM ACHIEVING MAXIMUM POTENTIAL BENEFITS, LARGELY DUE TO THE INITIAL PERIOD OF UNFAMILIARITY WITH GSP FOR THE GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS THAI EXPORTERS. RTG AUTHORITIES CONSIDER U.S. GSP TO BE BENEFICIAL AND HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR.

2. THE RTG HAS ESTABLISHED A COMMITTEE THAT MEETS MONTHLY FOR GSP STRATEGY AND PLANNING. THIS COMMITTEE IS COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES, COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, FINANCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT, BOARD OF TRADE, NATIONAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD, AND EXPORT SERVICE CENTER. THUS FAR, THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW INVESTMENTS PLANNED OR UNDERTAKEN BY THE RTG OR THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN INDUSTRIES WHICH COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GSP OR ANY INDICATION OF AN INCREASE DURING THE YEAR OF THAI EXPORTS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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NON-TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS TO THE U.S.

3. THAI EXPORTERS' UNAWARENESS OF THE BENEFITS OF U.S. GSP WAS PERHAPS THE MAJOR REASON FOR SHIPMENTS OF ELIGIBLE PRODUCTS NOT ACCORDED GSP TREATMENT. RTG IS HOPEFUL THAT, WITH GREATER PUBLICITY BEING GIVEN TO GSP, THIS SITUATION WILL IMPROVE DURING THE SECOND YEAR. FOR EXAMPLE, THE RECENTLY

CONCLUDED USG-SPONSORED GSP SEMINAR (SEE REF B) EXPOSED
A LARGE NUMBER OF POTENTIAL EXPORTERS TO THE GSP
SYSTEM AND RECEIVED MUCH FAVORABLE PRESS COVERAGE.

4. WHEN WE RECEIVE USG'S ANALYSIS OF GSP STATISTICS,
EMBASSY WILL AGAIN DISCUSS FIRST YEAR'S OPERATIONS WITH
OFFICIALS OF THE RTG AND THAI EXPORTERS AND REPORT ANY
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OJLSUGGESTIONS.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 08-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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